

# The 50<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting

## Report

( Tehran – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2000 )

The 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ECO Council of Permanent Representatives (CPR) was held in the ECO Secretariat on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2000. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Dr. Seyed Mohammad Hossein Adeli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Permanent Representatives/Representatives of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the Secretary General of ECO attended the Meeting. The list of participants is placed at **Annex-I**.

### **Agenda Item No. 1**

#### Adoption of the Agenda

The Council adopted the Agenda as prepared by the Secretariat. The adopted Agenda is enclosed as **Annex-II**.

### **Agenda Item No. 2**

#### Adoption of the Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CPR

The Council adopted the Report of its 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2000 with amendments in Paragraphs 2 and 8 respectively. The adopted Report is being circulated separately.

### **Agenda Item No. 3**

#### Finalization of the proposed ECO Secretariat's draft Budget for the fiscal year 2001

The Council approved the draft Budget of the ECO Secretariat for the year 2001 except the Head of Account for Traveling Expenses. The Secretariat will prepare a detailed report/break-up on the expenses made under this Head of Account for the current year and circulate it among Member States prior to the next CPR. The said report will be considered by the CPR in order to finalize the allocation for traveling expenses for the year 2001. The approved budget with the exception of the Traveling Expenses, will be circulated separately as an approved document.

### **Agenda Item No. 4**

#### 10<sup>th</sup> COM's decision to establish a Working Group of Senior Officials to examine ways & means to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the ECO and its Regional Institutions & Specialized Agencies

It was agreed that IR of Iran, in its capacity as Chairman, would propose two sets of date for a Working Group Meeting to be held in Tehran shortly, inviting Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States to participate in the Meeting. The proposed Meeting of the Senior Officials may precede the forthcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Regional Planning Council (RPC).

### **Agenda Item No. 5**

#### Publication of the second edition of ECO Road & Railway Networks Maps

6. The Council deferred this item to one of its next Meetings.

### **Agenda Item No. 6**

#### Inclusion of Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (TRACECA) into global railway corridors of International Railway Union (UIC)

7. The representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan requested the Council to authorize the Secretariat to convey request for inclusion of TRACECA into the Global Railway Corridors to UIC.

8. The Council decided to defer this item to one of next CPR Meetings.

### **Agenda Item No. 7**

#### Matters pertaining to the DCCU Project at the ECO Secretariat

9. The Council took note of the Summary prepared by the Secretariat on the ECO-UNDCP Project Developments after the 45<sup>th</sup> CPR Meeting. Nevertheless, the Council urged completion of the Project on time.

### **Agenda Item No. 8**

#### Matters pertaining to the utilization of Special Support Fund

10. The Council, on the recommendation of the ECO Secretariat, approved the following amendments in the list of ECO activities of the Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2000 to benefit from the Special Support Fund to subsidize participation of the new Member States:

- Replacement of the Experts Group Meeting as Mutual Payments Arrangement (No. 6) with the Second Seminar on Trade & Investment Information Networking in the ECO Region, which was held in Antalya (Turkey) on 26-27 October, 2000;
- Replacement of the ECO Experts Meeting on Enhancement of Regional Cooperation in Mineral Sector and Drafting a Plan of Action for Cooperation among the ECO Countries (No. 8) with the Workshop on ECO Energy Charter Treaty Cooperation to be held in Turkey on 27-28 November, 2000;
- Since two participants – one from Economic Research and one from Statistics of each seven new Member States – were required to participate in the Third Coordination Meeting of National Focal Points (NFP) for Joint Activities in the Economic Research & Statistics (No. 11), held in Tehran on 18-20 November, 2000, the Council authorized the Secretariat to reimburse travel expenses to two participants from each seven Member States;

11. The Council emphasized that the substituted activities i.e. Experts Group Meeting on Mutual Payments Arrangement and the ECO Mineral Experts Meeting on Enhancement of Regional Cooperation in Minerals Sector and Drafting a Plan of Action for cooperation among the ECO Countries would take place in the ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for the year 2001 while benefiting from Special Support Fund (SSF).

### **Agenda Item No. 9**

#### Review of the ECO Calendar of Events for the year 2000

12. The Council reviewed the Status Report on the implementation of the activities included in the ECO Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2000. Since the un-held two events i.e. Round Table between ECO Secretariat and ECO-CEC on the issues of preparation for pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of ECO Priority Projects and the Meeting of ECO-CEC of Relevant Experts from the Member States to identify areas for cooperation are closely interrelated, the Council decided to combine the two events and include it in the Calendar of Events/Meetings for 2001 under the Directorate of Project Research.

13. With regard to the venue of the Workshop on Waste Water Management and Treatment Technology, the Council agreed to leave the venue undecided subject to pending consultations between relevant two Member States.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10**

##### Finalization of the proposed draft Budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for the year 2001

14. The Council decided that the Working Group would take up the draft Budget of ECI for 2001 in the presence of the representative of ECI and submit the result to the next CPR Meeting for approval.

#### **Agenda Item No. 11**

##### Statement of the utilization of the budget of the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) for 1999

15. The Council decided that the Working Group would take up the issue in the presence of the representative of the ECI and submit the result to next CPR.

#### **Agenda Item No. 12**

##### External relations of ECO:

##### i. MOU between the ECO Secretariat and the International Trade Centre (ITC)/UNCTAD/WTO;

16. The Council approved the draft MOU to be signed between the ECO Secretariat and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO and authorized the Secretary General to sign it on behalf of ECO.

##### ii. Cooperation between Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) & Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

17. The Council agreed that the issue on ECO's cooperation with Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) would be taken up in due course as some Member States still awaited instructions from their respective Governments.

##### iii. Cooperation between ECO & (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council

18. The Council decided to defer this sub-item till the of next CPR Meeting.

#### **Agenda Item No. 13**

##### Any other Business

##### i. Authorization to the Secretary General to Transfer Funds

19. The Secretary General requested the Council to authorize him to transfer funds from savings under other Chapters of the Current Budget to beef up heads such as Contingencies (US\$ 5000/-) and Traveling Expenses (US\$ 15000/-). He emphasized the need for early approval of the proposed budget. Highlighting the surge of local currency, he said that the budget as approved was effectively lower than the current year budget. This did not gel with the expectations of the Member States, which desire the ECO Secretariat to expand its activities.

20. The Council requested the ECO Legal Adviser to study the relevant ECO Financial Regulations and give his opinion whether the CPR could authorize such transfers. If the Legal Adviser confirms in writing to the Secretariat that CPR could authorize the Secretary General to transfer the said amounts, CPR would have deemed to have approved the transfers.

##### ii. Briefing by SG on his visits abroad and ECO's relations with International Organizations

21. The Secretary General informed the CPR about the following:

- The Secretary General paid a courtesy visit to Turkey on 30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2000 and held meetings with H.E. the President and H.E. the Prime Minister and other high-ranking officials of the Republic of Turkey;
- The Secretary General also visited Turkmenistan on 20-22 November, 2000 to pay a courtesy call on H.E. the President. He held meetings with other high-ranking dignitaries of Turkmenistan;
- A UNDP delegation from New York visited the Secretariat on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2000 in connection with the implementation of UNDP Capacity Building Project;
- The UNCTAD Secretary General also visited the ECO Secretariat on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2000;
- The Secretary General of World Customs Organization (WCO) visited the ECO Secretariat on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2000;
- The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) invited the ECO Secretary General to participate in OSCE-Japan Conference 2000: Comprehensive Security in Central Asia, to be held in Tokyo, Japan on 11-12 December, 2000.

#### **Agenda Item No. 14**

##### Date of the next Meeting

22. The Council decided to hold its next Meeting in early January, 2001 for which the exact date will be conveyed to the Member States in due course.

---

[\[Home\]](#) - [\[Back\]](#)